



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Darren M. Popkin
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Thursday, November 12, 2020
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Via Microsoft Teams due to the COVID-19 Crisis

Minutes

Members: Debbie Feinstein, Chair (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Tom Manion, Vice Chair (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Spencer Cantrell (Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse); Nicole Drew (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Laurie Duker (Court Watch Montgomery); The Honorable Karen Ferretti (District Court for Montgomery County); Dorne Hill (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council); Tina Michaels (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court for Montgomery County); Assistant Chief Ron Smith (Montgomery County Department of Police); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Amy Palumbo (Community Member); Mindy Thiel (Community Member); Ronald Whalen (Community Member); Smita Varia, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff);

Absent: Ingrid Gonzalez (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); The Honorable Rebecca Smondrowski (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education); Vikhyana Gonzalez (Student Member);

Guests: Elaine Arndt (Community Member, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America); Alia El Radi (House of Ruth); Carolyn Hoffman (Court Watch Montgomery); Captain Amy Daum and Lt. Gerald McFarland (Montgomery County Police Department); Carmen Kaarid (Office of Montgomery County Councilmember Sidney Katz); Tondalayo Royster (Public Member); Tazeen Ahmad (Montgomery County Commission for Women);

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Guidelines for the Virtual Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the meeting was conducted virtually using Microsoft Teams. Debbie Feinstein reviewed guidelines for participants. She asked everyone to mute microphones when not speaking. Debbie Feinstein asked the participants to use the chat function if they would like to speak. She also requested that participants should identify themselves each time they speak.

III. Approval of September Minutes

The September 10, 2020 DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Laurie Duker proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by Tina Michaels and passed.

IV. Announcements

Tom Manion announced that the Family Justice Center Foundation raised \$70,000 during their virtual 11k walk during the October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Nicole Drew announced that the Montgomery County Commission for Women has hosted 2 of their listening tour sessions, and there will be 3 events next week. You can find more information about the tour on their website at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/>.

Debbie Feinstein announced that jury trials will be cancelled for the rest of the year. This should not impact protective order hearings.

V. Membership Update

The DVCC is now back to a full Council. Amy Palumbo's term has been renewed. Maura Lynch is the new Attorney member. She works at RLG Lawyers. Michelle Maxberry is the new Survivor member. She works for Mary's Center. Vikhyana Gonzalez is the new student member

VI. DVCC Leadership

In January, we will be voting on the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2021 and 2022. Debbie Feinstein and Tom Manion have both expressed interest in a second term. If you are also interested in being Chair or Vice Chair for the DVCC, please email Smita Varia before the January Meeting.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Victim Services Committee update - Tom Manion, Chair

Meets on the off month.

They are working on incorporating services at the FJC or affiliated services to work on addiction issues.

Legal Services: Court Advocates

Safe Start: They have started their Fall Safe Start groups virtually. They send them a box of art supplies, LEGO, and stuffed animals. The Town of Chevy Chase will be fundraising to have a holiday gift drive. Debbie brought up the idea of a service project for Choose Respect, to help Safe Start. Mindy suggested notes from the community to clients. Elaine Arndt said that Moms Demand Action would be interested in creating packets. Mindy also mentioned creating a program for children who suffered from a parental death.

Tom announced that they are forming a subcommittee to explore service models and best practices to assist all victims of types of violence. **Listen to recording.**

B. Education and Outreach Committee - Debbie Feinstein, Chair

October was DVAM. There were 2 proclamations with the County Council and CE, and with the BOE.

Choose Respect hosted an Instagram Takeover. 5 partner organizations took over the Choose Respect Instagram account to spread awareness.

Choose Respect Video Contest is now open. Top prize is \$1,000. All students get SSL hours for entering.

Choose Respect Committee met to discuss a virtual event.

Smita is creating videos for MCPS.

The Family Violence Prevention Campaign is ongoing. Please let Smita know if you have distribution ideas.

C. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee – *Spencer Cantrell, Chair*

This Saturday is the MLAW conference. After this weekend we will have a better idea of what is being proposed and what the landscape will look like. Smita will be scheduling the next meeting soon.

D. Offender Program and Policy Committee – *Tina Michaels, Chair*

Pre-trial is having a staffing shortage. Many initiatives are stalled because of COVID-19. Working on a continuation of conditions from Pre-Trial to Probation. The Pre-Trial conditions are strict, but the Probation intake is long and creates a gap. AIP program is still procurement. If an offender is ordered to participate in AIP, they have to wait until the program starts again, therefore probation needs to be extended. Dorne also mentioned that the Shelter numbers have increased again.

VIII. Adjournment

Debbie Feinstein ended the meeting at 6:09 pm.

The next DVCC meeting will be on January 14, 2021, 5pm-7pm



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council